Production, Export and demand of Onions

1554. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the production, export and demand of onion during the last three years and steps taken by Government for improving onion stock in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : The production, export and the resultant consumption which is assumed as demand of onion during last three years was as under :—

Year	Production	Export	Resultant Consumption
	(1)	(2)	(1—2)
1990-91	32.26	2.89	29.37
1991-92	35.85	4.06	31.79
1992-93	35.90	3.95	31.95

In order to step-up the production and the resultant stocks, the Government has been implementing development programmes. The efforts made by National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation have made it possible to develop cultivation of Kharif onion in Southern and Northern States. This has helped in improving the availability of onion throughout the year.

Shrimp culture on Coast line

1555. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to encourage shrimp culture on the coast line ;

(b) whether it is a fact that big industries are entering this sector ; and

(c) what action Government are taking to small agriculturists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) For encouraging small scale aquaculturists in shrimp farming, the Government have taken the following important initiatives:

(i) Guidelines issued to states for allotment of 50% of the available potential brackishwater area, requiring low investment, for development, to individual/groups of fishermen or economically weaker sections or fisheries co-operatives ;

(ii) Establishment of Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BEDAs) in 37 coastal districts for providing a package of technical, financial and extension support. A maximum subsidy of Rs. 30,000 per ha. per annum admissible to a beneficiary upto a maximum land holding of 10 ha. per beneficiary ;

(iii) Establishment of Pilot shrimp farms and shrimp hatcheries for demonstrating the techno-economic viability of shrimp farming and supply of shrimp seed ; and

(iv) Provision of two months training on shrimp farming to small farmers through the BFDAs.

Cost of Electricity component in calculation of Support Prices

1556. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what is the